

Attorney Docket No. LVIP:112US
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/709,871
Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2006
Date: January 10, 2007

Current Status of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A cutting apparatus, in particular a microtome or an ultramicrotome for cutting a specimen into a plurality of thin slices comprising: an observation device[,] ~~in particular a stereomicroscope[,]~~ for observing the cut specimen surface and/or the thin slices, a pivoting device for pivoting the observation device and a positioning device provided with the pivoting device for positioning of the pivoting device at a defined angle, wherein said pivoting device is enclosed within a curved rigid guide.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The cutting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the positioning device comprises a detent element that makes possible positioning of the pivoting device in defined detent positions that correspond to a plurality of defined angles (α) wherein the detent element is arranged on the curved rigid guide enclosing the pivoting device.

Claim 3 (original) The cutting apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein the detent element is embodied in such a way that a positioning of the pivoting device between the detent positions is also possible.

Claim 4 (original) The cutting apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein one or more detent grooves are provided on a pivot element of the pivoting device.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The cutting apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein further comprising a rotary knob, said rotary knob including a shaft, wherein that comprises the detent element is provided for positioning the pivoting device mounted on the shaft.

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Claim 6 (currently amended) The cutting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the positioning device comprises a position marking[,] ~~in particular a scale~~.

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (currently amended) A microtome or an ultramicrotome for cutting a specimen into a plurality of thin slices comprising: a stereomicroscope, for observing the cut specimen surface and/or the thin slices, a pivoting device for pivoting the stereomicroscope, a positioning device provided with the pivoting device for positioning of the pivoting device at a defined angle and a detent element that makes possible positioning of the pivoting device in defined detent positions that correspond to a plurality of defined angles (α) wherein the detent element is arranged on a curved rigid guide enclosing the pivoting device.

Claim 9 (currently amended) A method for presetting a cutting device, in particular a microtome or an ultramicrotome for cutting a specimen into a plurality of thin slices, comprising the steps of:

- providing an observation device[,] ~~in particular a stereomicroscope[,]~~ for observing the cut specimen surface and/or the thin slices;
- pivoting the observation device with a pivoting device; and
- providing a positioning device with the pivoting device wherein the pivoting of the observation device is accomplished to a ~~defined an~~ angle defined by detents on the positioning device.

Claim 10 (original) The method as defined in Claim 9, wherein the pivoting is accomplished to defined detent positions that are provided on the positioning device.

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Claim 11 (original) The method as defined in Claim 9, wherein the pivoting is accomplished to a defined position marking, and the position marking being provided on the positioning device.

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (new) A cutting apparatus, in particular a microtome or an ultramicrotome for cutting a specimen into a plurality of thin slices comprising: an observation device for observing the cut specimen surface and/or the thin slices, a pivoting device for pivoting the observation device and a positioning device provided with the pivoting device for positioning of the observation device, wherein the positioning device has a curved movable segment that rides within a curved rigid guide with a detent element, wherein the detent interacts with the movable segment to move the observation device to defined angular positions.